

# U.S. DOT's SMALL BUSINESS INNOVATION RESEARCH PROGRAM

Connecting DOT's emerging research needs with the power of small business innovation.



**SBIR**  
America's Seed Fund™  
POWERED BY DOT

## About U.S. DOT SBIR

The U.S. Department of Transportation's mission is to ensure a fast, safe, efficient, accessible, and convenient transportation system that meets vital national interests and enhances the quality of life of the American people.

U.S. DOT's Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program awards contracts to small businesses to advance this mission through research and development of innovative solutions to our nation's transportation challenges—from breakthroughs in safety to intelligent transportation systems (ITS).

The U.S. DOT's SBIR program publishes one solicitation each fiscal year for proposals on specific research topics of interest to the following DOT operating administrations:

- Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)
- Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
- Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA)
- Federal Railroad Administration (FRA)
- Federal Transit Administration (FTA)
- National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)
- Office of the Assistant Secretary for Research and Technology (OST-R)
- Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA)

Past topics have included:



ADMINISTERED BY



The National Transportation Systems Center

Volpe administers the U.S. DOT's SBIR program on behalf of the Secretary. Through SBIR, Volpe has awarded more than \$80 million in small business funding over the last 10 years on behalf of DOT's 8 participating operating administrations.

## What is SBIR?

SBIR is a congressionally mandated program that supports scientific excellence and technological innovation through the investment of federal research funds. The program aims to:

- Stimulate technological innovation;
- Meet federal government's needs for research and development by providing opportunities to small businesses;
- Increase private-sector commercialization of innovations that were initially supported with federal research funds;
- Provide opportunities for minority and disadvantaged populations to participate in innovation and entrepreneurship.

Each agency with an extramural budget of \$100 million must set aside a percentage of that budget to fund their agency's SBIR program. Each concern submitting a proposal must qualify as a small business at the time of award of Phase I, Phase II, and Phase IIB contracts.

## Small Business Eligibility Requirements

A small business is one that, at the time of award, meets all of the following criteria:

- Has 500 or fewer employees;
- Is independently owned and operated and organized for profit;
- Has its principal place of business in the United States;
- Is at least 51 percent owned by U.S. citizens or lawfully admitted permanent resident aliens.

In addition:

- Work must be performed in the U.S.;
- The principal investigator must spend more than one-half of the time employed by the proposing firm;
- A minimum of two-thirds of the research work must be performed by the proposing firm in Phase I and one-half in Phase II.

## Success Stories

Learn from past awardees



A self-sustaining pavement, made from solar panels, could transform the nation's roadways into an intelligent pavement system.

Agency: FHWA

Company: Solar Roadways Inc.



New sensors can help to reveal pipeline stressors before they are visible, and before they cause damage.

Agency: PHMSA

Company: Generation 2

Materials Technology, LLC



The SmartCross application interfaces with traffic signal systems to alert pedestrians when it is safe to cross the street.

Agency: FHWA

Company: Savari Inc.



U.S. Department of Transportation

## Learn More

Visit <https://www.volpe.dot.gov/sbir> to view past solicitations, suggest a topic, learn about success stories, and register for our mailing list.

For more information, contact the U.S. DOT's SBIR Hotline: **617.494.2051** or [dotsbir@dot.gov](mailto:dotsbir@dot.gov).